

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 AID-20 H-03 FS-01 ABF-01

L-03 TRSE-00 OMB-01 IGA-02 FBO-01 SS-15 NSC-10 INRE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /082 W

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O 171100Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6812

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 10861

FOR AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, EFIN, US, IN

SUBJ: RUPEE NEGOTIATIONS - CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST

REF: STATE 182997

SUMMARY: PROPOSAL FOR DOLS 13 MILLION ENDOWMENT FOR ST. JOHN'S MEDICAL COLLEGE AND HOSPITAL PRESENTED TO MRS. GANDHI BY CARDINAL GRACIAS SEPTEMBER 23, 1971. MINISTRY OF HEALTH INFORMED THE CARDINAL ON DEC. 21, 1971, THAT PROPOSAL TURNED DOWN. END SUMMARY.

1. INSTITUTION IS KNOWN AS ST. JOHN'S MEDICAL COLLEGE AND HOSPITAL. ON SEPTEMBER 27, 1971, FATHER ROBERT P. BARRETT, PASTOR OF A CONGREGATION IN CANTON, OHIO, AND CLOSE FRIEND OF CONGRESSMAN FRANK T. BOW OF CANTON, CALLED ON THE USAID DIRECTOR. HE SAID THAT VALERIAN CARDINAL GRACIAS HAD PRESENTED TO MRS. GANDHI ON SEPTEMBER 12, 1971, A REQUEST FOR A 100 MILLION RUPEE (DOLS 13 MILLION) PL 480 ENDOWMENT. MRS. GANDHI NEITHER APPROVED NOR DISAPPROVED THE PROPOSAL BUT SENT IT ON TO THE HEALTH MINISTRY.

2. ON DECEMBER 21, 1971 (A FEW DAYS AFTER THE CONCLUSION
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OF THE INDO-PAK WAR AND THE SUSPENSION OF USAID'S NON-

PROJECT LOAN PROGRAM), THE CARDINAL RECEIVED A REPLY. MR. U.S. DIKSHIT THEN GOI MINISTER OF HEALTH, WROTE THAT THE RS. 100 MILLION ENDOWMENT PROPOSAL FOR PHASE II AT ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL "HAS BEEN CAREFULLY CONSIDERED BY GOVERNMENT IN ALL ITS ASPECTS, AND I HAVE REGRETFULLY TO INFORM YOU THAT THEY DO NOT FIND IT POSSIBLE TO AGREE TO YOUR PROPOSAL".

3. ST. JOHN'S HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN GIVEN A GRANT OF RS. 48.9 MILLION FOR CONSTRUCTING AND EQUIPPING A MAJOR FACILITY. THIS IS MORE THAN THE TOTAL GIVEN TO ALL SEVEN OTHER HOSPITALS WHICH RECEIVED GRANT AID AT THE SAME TIME (1969). THE GOI WAS QUITE RELUCTANT TO APPROVE GRANTS TO CHRISTIAN MISSION HOSPITALS AT THE TIME THE GRANT WAS MADE TO ST. JOHN'S. APPROVAL OF SEVERAL GRANTS WAS FINALLY GIVEN AFTER TWO HINDU INSTITUTIONS WERE ADDED TO THE LIST. WE BELIEVE THE GOI WOULD BE EVEN MORE RELUCTANT TO APPROVE NEW GRANTS TODAY. ABOUT 33 PERCENT OF THE GRANT HAS BEEN DISBURSED. CONSTRUCTION HAS BEEN SLOW DUE TO MUCH WRANGLING, CHANGES IN PLANS, SPORADIC AVAILABILITY OF CONSTRUCTION CONSUMABLES, ETC.

4. FYI: DON MACDONALD IS VERY FAMILIAR WITH THIS PROBLEM. SUGGEST THAT THE AMBASSADOR TALK WITH HIM BEFORE SEEING CONGRESSMAN ZABLOCKI.

DECON 9/17/74.
SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: EXCESS FOREIGN EXCHANGE, RUPEE, SURPLUS (CURRENCY), FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
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